

RESOLUTION NO. 2022 –

RESOLUTION DECLARING A CLIMATE EMERGENCY IN BLOOMINGTON, MINNESOTA

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BLOOMINGTON, MINNESOTA that based on the following, the City of Bloomington declares that a climate emergency threatens our city, region, state, nation, humanity, and the natural world.

WHEREAS, recent scientific research indicates that to achieve the goal of limiting temperature increase to 1.5 degrees Celsius, carbon emissions must be halved by 2030 and reach net zero global emissions by 2050; and

WHEREAS, in the Twin Cities annual average temperatures increased by 3.2° Fahrenheit from 1951 to 2012, and globally we have already reached a temperature increase of nearly 1.1 degrees Celsius (nearly 2 degrees Fahrenheit) as compared to pre-industrial times. The death and destruction already wrought by this level of global warming demonstrate that the Earth is already too hot for safety and justice, as attested by increased and intensifying wildfires, floods, rising seas, diseases, droughts, and extreme weather. In Minnesota, the ten warmest and wettest years ever recorded have all occurred since 1998; and

WHEREAS, in the past year, the City of Bloomington has experienced numerous climate change related impacts, including: a record summer heat wave, dangerous air quality from forest fires where even healthy people were encouraged to remain inside, and city-imposed watering restrictions, making it clear that the climate crisis is affecting us now and will continue to affect future generations; and

WHEREAS, climate change will create new challenges for the City of Bloomington's infrastructure and finances, such as storm water control and rising insurance rates which will threaten the economic vitality of our residents and businesses; and

WHEREAS, over half of Minnesota birds are threatened by climate change, nearly a quarter of species in North and South America risk extinction, natural diversity is essential for humans to thrive, and warming winters are allowing northern migration of pests to Minnesota; and

WHEREAS, the greatest burden from an inadequate response to the climate crisis will be felt by historically marginalized or underserved communities as well as the youngest generation, including the children and grandchildren of the City of Bloomington; and

WHEREAS, in April 2016 world leaders from 175 countries, including the United States, recognized the threat of climate change and the urgent need to combat it by signing the Paris Agreement, agreeing to "pursue efforts to limit the temperature increase to 1.5 degrees Celsius;" and

WHEREAS, the bi-partisan Next Generation Energy Act, passed by the Minnesota State Legislature and signed by then Governor Tim Pawlenty in 2007, committed our State to

achieving to an 80% reduction in greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions by 2050 and with interim goals of 15% and 30% below 2005 GHG emissions levels by 2015 and 2025, respectively, with cities being key drivers of achieving these goals; and

WHEREAS, Bloomington's Energy Action Plan outlines a goal of reducing GHG emissions by 75% by 2035; and

WHEREAS, despite these priorities, resolutions, and plans, the United States, Minnesota, and the City of Bloomington have failed to meet interim goals, and GHG emissions within the city are not significantly decreasing; and

WHEREAS, the City of Bloomington has supported climate action and GHG emission reductions, including:

- (1) In 2016, designating Environmental Sustainability as one of six strategic priorities for the City;
- (2) In August 2017, passing a resolution in support of the Paris Climate Agreement;
- (3) In May 2018, approving a community-wide Energy Action Plan to reduce GHG emissions; and

WHEREAS, 2,027 jurisdictions in 36 countries, including Minnesota leaders Duluth, Minneapolis, and Crystal Bay Township, have already declared climate emergencies in order to focus attention on the need for rapid action to address climate change.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED the City of Bloomington commits to working towards an inclusive and equitable climate emergency mobilization effort and will:

- Partner with and employ subject matter experts in Sustainability and Resiliency that have purview to propose and implement responses and address solutions to climate impacts;
- Engage Bloomington residents and leaders to support climate solutions;
- Continue to implement GreenStep Cities best practices related to energy, climate actions, climate adaptation and resilience, or other appropriate practices;
- Continue to implement and reassess the community-wide Energy Action Plan, set quantifiable goals, and identify strategies for reducing Bloomington's largest sources of GHG emissions; and
- Utilize the authority of the City Council and the City Manager to drive climate change and sustainability measures.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED the City of Bloomington calls on the Minnesota legislature and executive branch to immediately and aggressively support cities of all sizes around Minnesota to mitigate and adapt to the effects of climate change, including providing funding and resources for the development and implementation of climate action plans.

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED the City of Bloomington calls on the federal government to immediately commit resources to support the climate mitigation and adaptation efforts of cities large and small, to invest in the infrastructure needed for a sustainable future, to ensure that

investment is at the scale needed, and to provide the necessary leadership to keep global warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius (2.7 degrees Fahrenheit).

Passed and adopted this 24th day of January, 2022.

Mayor

Attest:

Secretary to the Council